

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 26363 101326Z

51

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3866

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: CANDIDATES FOR ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL POSITION

(A) GENEVA A-497; (B) PARIS A-636

1. SUMMARY: GOF HAS FORMED COMMITTED TO REVIEW QUESTION OF SUCCESSOR OF JENKS AS ILO DG AND PENDING ILO STRUCTURE MATTERS. GOF HOPES THAT WASHINGTON IS ALSO FOCUSING ON THESE QUESTIONS SO THAT GOF-USG CONSULTATION MAY BEGIN IN NOVEMBER MEETING IF ILO GOVERNING BODY. END SUMMARY.

2. GOF HAS BEGUN TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON QUESTION OF SUCCESSOR TO JENKS AS ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL. IMPETUS FOR THIS ORIGINATED WITH OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY OF ALBERT TEVOEDJRE OF DAHOMEY AND LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO PARIS SOLICITING GOF SUPPORT (REF A). REAL PRESSURE, HOWEVER, CAME FROM DEPUTY ILO DG
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PAGE 02 PARIS 26363 101326Z

FRANCIS BLANCHARD (FRANCE), WHO ASKED

GOF COMMITMENT TO CAMPAIGN OFFICIALLY IN HIS BEHALF.
BLANCHARD PLANS TO PLEAD HIS CASE GAIN DURING VISIT PARIS
MID-OCTOBER.

3. CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL GOF OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN ILO
MATTERS INDICATE THAT FOLLOWING TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT HAVE DEVELOPED
ON SUBJECT MATTER:

(A) TIME NO PROPITIOUS FOR GOF TO PROMOTE FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR
ILO DG. THEREFORE, ACTION SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL ELECTION
(PROBABLY NOVEMBER 1974) AND THEN VOTE FOR BEST QUALIFIED CANDIDATE,
IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GB MEMBERS. ADVOCATES OF THIS APPROACH
ARGUE THAT BLANCHARD SHOULD BE ADVISED TO CAMPAIGN ON HIS OWN AND
NOT AS OFFICIAL FRENCH CANDIDATE.

(B) SHOULD FRANCE DECIDE TO GOT ALL OUT FOR ILO DIRECTORSHIP, SHE
SHOULD SELECT A NATIONAL FIGURE WITH SUFFICIENT STATURE TO COMMAND
GB MEMBERS RESPECT AND SUPPORT. THIS POSITION IS CENTERED
ON FACT THAT IF PRESENT UNESCO DG (MAHEU OF FRANCE) IS NOT
CANDIDATE FOR REELECTION, FRANCE WILL BE UNDER-REPRESENTED IN
TOP POSITIONS OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. DIFFICULTY WITH THIS
POSITION WILL BE TO FIND SUITABLE CANDIDATE INTERESTED IN THE JOB.
ONLY NAME MENTIONED THUS FAR IS JACQUES
DELORS (REF B).

4. PREVALENT FEELING AMONG GOF OFFICIALS IS THAT GOF SHOULD
PROPOSE NO CANDIDATE WITHOUT CLOSEST CONSULTATION WITH GB PERMANENT
MEMBERS, AND ESPECIALLY WITH US. THEY BELIEVE THAT FRANCE HAS
SUFFERED ENOUGH SETBACKS IN ILO OVER LAST THREE YEARS (FAILURE OF
BLANCHARD IN LAST ELECTION AND DEFEAT, DESPITE GOF SUPPORT, OF
USSR CANDIDATE FOR GB CHAIRMANSHIP IN 1972 (AND '73) THAT
GREATER CAUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN CONTEMPLATING FUTURE INITIATIVES
IN ILO.

5. LUKEWARM POSITION ON BLANCHARD SEEMS TO BE BASED NOT SO
MUCH ON RESERVATIONS ABOUT HIS QUALIFICATIONS AS ON DOUBT WHETHER
IT WOULD BE WISE - AFTER EXPERIENCE WITH JENKS - TO AGAIN PROMOTE
FROM WITHIN ILO, TO POSITION OF DG.

6. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, GOF CONSIDERS ILO DG ELECTION
AND RELATED MATTERS AFFECTING ILO STRUCTURE AS SUFFICIENTLY
URGENT TO WARRANT FORMATION OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP
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PAGE 03 PARIS 26363 101326Z

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS. COMMITTEE, HEADED BY FRENCH DELEGATE
TO ILO, ALEXANDRE PARODI, INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES FROM
MINISTRIES OF LABOR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY, FINANCE, AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

7. SOURCES EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WASHINGTON ALSO IS FOCUSING ON
QUESTION OF JENKS'S SUCCESSOR AND ON PENDING PROPOSALS REGARDING
ILO STRUCTURE SO THAT CONSULTATION CAN BEGIN AT AN

EARLY DATE, POSSIBLY AT GB NOVEMBER MEETING.

IRWIN

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